Abſurdities are expoſed in the Arguments advanced for the Support of this Error.

4. The Third Chapter is a critical View of the Hiſtories of *Hermaphrodites* given by ſeveral Authors; ſhewing that thoſe ſo reputed were either perfect Men or Women, having only ſome Deformity or Diſeaſe in the Parts of Generation.

5. The Concluſion deſcribes the State of all Female *Fœtuſes*, with ſome Obſervations which I laid before this moſt Honourable SOCIETY; which prove that every Female *Fœtus* may as well be thought an *Hermaphrodite*, as any that were ever called ſo.

By this Method I hope it will appear, that this ſo long reigning Error is confuted; and if this Learned SOCIETY, whoſe ſole Buſineſs here is to inſpect into the true Nature of Things, think I have ſucceeded, and give this Treatiſe, which I have the Honour to preſent them, a favourable Reception, it will be eſteemed a very great Honour by their

Moſt obedient Servant,

J. Parſons.

XXVI. *An Account of an* antient Date *in* Arabian Figures, *upon the North Front of the Pariſh Church of* Rumſey *in* Hampſhire. *By the Rev. Mr.* William Barlow.

AS the knowing how long the *Arabian* or *Indian* Figures have been uſed in the Weſt, may ſometimes be a means for diſtinguiſhing ſpurious from

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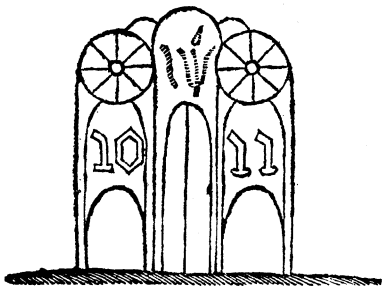
from genuine Dates; ſo a wrong Hypotheſis—fixing the Time later than it ought to be—may poſſibly induce us to ſuſpect genuine Dates to be doubtful or ſpurious. To give ſome Light to this Subject, I have here ſent a Draught of Part of the North Front of the Abbey (now Pariſh) Church of *Rumſey*, in the County of *Southampton*, with an Inſcription on the ſame. That this Inſcription is a Date, 1011, is evident from the Figures. That it is a genuine Date, the apparent Antiquity of the Building plainly demonſtrates. A ſpurious Date in this Place would have expreſſed the Time when the Abbey was founded by King *Edward*, Grandfather of *Edgar*, above a Hundred Years before the Time here mentioned.

There is ſomething very remarkable with relation to the Time when this Church was built. Not only during the Year of this Date, 1011, but for ſeveral Years before, many Parts of *England* were laid waſte by the revenging *Danes*, juſtly incenſed againſt the *Engliſh* by the inhuman Maſſacre of their Countrymen in the Year 1002. The *Saxon* Chronicle, *p.* 141. acquaints us, that the County of *Hants*, Hamtun-ſcire, among others, was miſerably harraſſed by theſe cruel Invaders this Year of the Date *. It is therefore very extraordinary, that ſo fine a Pile (according to the Age when it was built) ſhould be raiſed at a time when every thing elſe, Sacred and Civil, was plundered and deſtroyed by theſe mercileſs Ravagers. But probably the Devaſtation was not quite ſo general as repreſented.

* *Florence* of *Worceſter* alſo obſerves the ſame. . . *Suthamtonenſi, Wiltunenſi . . . provinciis . à Danorum exercitu ferro flammaque demolitis. Ad An.* 1011. *p.* 613.

If this be a genuine Date, (and I ſee no Reaſon to queſtion it) it is, I believe, the antienteſt, *Indian*, or other, that has yet been taken notice of in *England*, perhaps in *Europe*; and quite deſtroys the Opinions advanced by *Scaliger*, *Voſſius*, *F. Mabillon*, Dr. *Wallis*, and other learned Men, concerning this Matter.

Now I have mentioned this Abbey of *Rumſey*, I take Leave to correct an Error in Sir *H. Savil*'s (the only extant) Edition of *Roger Howeden*, *Frankf.* 1601. *p.* 426. *Anno* 967. *Rex . . Edgarus in Monaſterio* Rameſeie, *quod Avus ſuus Edvardus ſenior conſtruxerat.*—Here it is called *Rameſeie*, by Miſtake, for *Rumeſeie*; and again in the ſame Page. But *Rameſeie* was *Ramſey* in the County of *Huntingtón*, a Monaſtery founded by *Oſwald* * Biſhop of *Worceſter*, afterwards Archbiſhop of *York*, conſecrated by the ſaid *Oſwald An.* 991 †. This Identity of Name, unobſerved, may occaſion great Confuſion in the Hiſtory of theſe Two Places. I find *F. Creſſy* (*p.* 860.) or the Authors he tranſcribed from, miſled by this typographical Error. Poſſibly others may fall into the ſame Miſtake, by the ſame Means. It is pity there is not a more correct Edition of that Author.



* *Will. Malmesb. De Geſt. Reg. Ang. p.* 56. 291.
† *Simeon Dunelm. ad An.* 991.

XXVII. *Some*